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A substitute name for the Luzon race of Copsychus saularis

by Kenneth C. Parkes

Received 7th January, 1963

Defying all laws of probability, certain things in this world seem to be particularly unlucky for certain people. It appears that I should in the future avoid at all costs the introduction of a new scientific name bearing the prefix hetero-. Recently in this journal (Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl., Vol. 81, p. 33) I had to propose the new name Orthotomus atrogularis rabori to replace my O. a. heterolaemus, a name whose prior use I had completely overlooked. History now repeats itself, and I find that the name Copsychus saularis heterogynus, which I recently proposed for the Luzon subspecies of the Dyal, is also preoccupied, as the genus Kittacincla is no longer considered separable from Copsychus. I therefore offer a substitute name, as follows:

Copsychus saularis deuteronymus, nom. nov. Replaces Copsychus saularis heterogynus Parkes, Postilla, no. 67, 1962, p. 3, not Kittacincla malabarica heterogyna Oberholser, Bull. U.S. Nat. Mus., Vol. 98, 1917, p. 53, now Copsychus malabaricus heterogynus (Oberholser).

Oberholser's use of this name was called to my attention by the recent paper by Hoogerwerf (Ardea, Vol. 50, 1962, p. 183), in which doubt is cast on the taxonomic validity of this and several other Oberholser races of

Copsychus malabaricus.

Notes on birds seen in eastern Aden Protectorate

by I. R. GRIMWOOD

Received 27th October, 1962

The following notes elaborate on the information given in Col. R. Meinertzhagen's Birds of Arabia, 1954, whose nomenclature is followed throughout.

I am indebted to Mr. John Williams, of the Coryndon Museum, Nairobi, for the identification of the specimens noted as having been collected.

EXTENSIONS OF RECORDED RANGE

Bar-tailed Desert Lark, Ammomanes phoenicura arenicolor-male collected Wadi Mitan (52° 20' E., 18° 10' N.) 17th May, where several small parties were seen associating with the commoner A. deserti.

Bifasciated Lark, Certhilauda alaudipes desertorum—male collected Wadi Mitan (52° 20' E., 18° 10' N.) 17th May, Female collected Thamud (49° 50' E., 17° 15' N.) 30th April. This lark was seen throughout the area north of the Wadi Hazar-Thamud-Sanau-Habarut track, both on the "iol" and up to two miles within the sand sea, which was as far as observation was carried. It was not, however, noted east of the Wadi Hazar (long. 49° 20') on the Al Abr-Thamud road.

Geese. A party of unidentified grey geese were seen on sea near Ahwar (46° 45′ E., 13° 30′ N.) 17th April. Geese are reported to visit the neighbourhood of Mukalla in small numbers every year and one shot there in the winter of 1960/61 by Lt.-Col. J. W. G. Gray, of the Hadrami Beduin Legion, was identified by him as Anser anser.

Ferruginous Duck, Avthva nvroca—single male in company with a pair of Wigeon (Anas penelope), three male and seven female Pintail (A. acuta) and one male Pochard (Aythya ferina) seen on small coastal creek six miles west of Mukalla on 6th April.

BREEDING

Tristram's Grackle, Onychognathus tristrami—a pair seen carrying nesting material, sea cliffs east of Mukalla, 22nd April. A large colony occupying cliffs at Maula Mattar appeared to be breeding (23rd April).

Bifasciated Lark, Certhilauda alaudipes desertorum—the female col-

lected Thamud, 30th April was ovulating.

Great Grey Shrike, Lanius excubitor—a nest containing C/2 found Thamud, 27th April. A third egg added 28th April. The nest, about six feet from the ground in bush in a wadi, consisted of a fairly deep cup made of fine twigs, roots and grass, lined with fine grasses and some hair.

Mourning Chat, Oenanthe lugens (presumably of race boscoweni)—a pair seen feeding a single fully-fledged youngster on rocks at foot of sea cliffs east of Mukalla, 22nd April.

Blackstart, Cercomela melanura-a fully-fledged immature collected Al Abr (47° 15′ E., 16° 10′ N.) 25th April.

MIGRATION DATES

Solitary individuals of the European Swallow, Hirundo rustica, Sandmartin, Riparia riparia Spotted Flycatcher, Muscicapa striatus, and Willow Warbler, Phylloscopus trochilus, were noted along the southern edge of the Rub-al-Khali sand sea from longitude 49° to 52° 30′ E. between the 26th April and 23rd May. All showed signs of distress and sought shade within vehicles at every opportunity, giving the impression of being stragglers from a major migration which had passed through earlier. A single specimen of Upcher's Warbler, Hippolais languida, was also seen and collected in the Wadi Mitan on the 2nd May.

Barred Warblers, Sylvia nisoria, in numbers aggregating perhaps 150, together with a few Olivaceous Warblers, Hippolais pallida, were however, seen in a small patch of thorn trees at Al Abr on the 25th April. Specimens of both were collected.